

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for matching character sets, comprising:
 - storing one or more data set files;
 - creating one or more character set files, wherein each character set file is associated with a character set and includes indexes associated with the one or more data set files;
 - creating a set of index entries, wherein each index entry in the set corresponds to a character set file and stores an index that is also stored in the corresponding character set file;
 - comparing the indexes stored in the index entries included in the set of index entries to determine whether any of the index entries match another index entry in the set of index entries;
 - updating at least one output file based on the comparing, the at least one output file being configured to store zero or more indexes based on a number of matches between the compared index entries;
 - receiving a request specifying one or more character sets; and
 - identifying one or more of the data set files that contain one or more of the requested character sets using the indexes in the character set files.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~further comprising:~~ wherein creating a set of index entries includes creating an array of index entries, wherein each

index entry in the array corresponds to a character set file and stores an index stored in the corresponding character set file; and

wherein comparing the index entries includes comparing a current index entry to a compared index entry.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, further comprising:

if the current index entry includes an index having a value that is less than an index included in the compared index entry, selecting another index entry for comparison.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, further comprising:

if the current index entry includes an index having a value that is greater than an index included in the compared index entry, replacing the current index entry with the compared index entry; and

resetting zero or more update indicators.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, further comprising:

if the current index entry includes an index having a value that is equal to an index included in the compared index entry, incrementing a matching counter; and setting an update indicator for the compared index entry.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, further comprising:

if all of the index entries in the array have been selected for comparison, incrementing a matching counter; and

storing the index in the current index entry in ~~an~~ the at least one output file, the at least one output file being associated with a value of a matching counter associated with the index.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, further comprising:

if all of the indexes in the character set files have not been selected for comparison, updating the current index entry; and

updating any index entry ~~whose~~ having an update indicator is set.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising:

if all of the indexes in the character set files have been selected, outputting a number of output files that is equivalent to the number of character set files, wherein each output file stores zero or more indexes.

9. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture ~~for matching character sets,~~ including instructions for performing, when executed by a processor, operations for matching character sets, wherein the article of manufacture includes a memory device or hardware logic and ~~is capable of causing operations,~~ the operations comprise comprising:

storing one or more data set files;

creating one or more character set files, wherein each character set file is associated with a character set and includes indexes associated with the one or more data set files;

creating a set of index entries, wherein each index entry in the array corresponds to a character set file and stores an index that is also stored in the corresponding character set file;

comparing the indexes stored in the index entries included in the set of index entries to determine whether any of the index entries match another index entry in the set of index entries;

updating at least one output file based on the comparing, the at least one output file being configured to store zero or more indexes based on a number of matches between the compared index entries;

receiving a request specifying one or more character sets; and

identifying one or more of the data set files that contain one or more of the requested character sets using the indexes in the character set files.

10. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of claim 9, wherein the operations further comprise:

creating an array of index entries, wherein each index entry in the array corresponds to a character set file and stores an index stored in the corresponding character set file; and

wherein comparing the index entries includes comparing a current index entry to a compared index entry.

11. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of claim 10, wherein the operations further comprise:

if the current index entry includes an index having a value that is less than an index included in the compared index entry, selecting another index entry for comparison.

12. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of claim 10, wherein the operations further comprise:

if the current index entry includes an index having a value that is greater than an index included in the compared index entry, replacing the current index entry with the compared index entry; and

resetting zero or more update indicators.

13. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of claim 110, wherein the operations further comprise:

if the current index entry includes an index having a value that is equal to an index included in the compared index entry, incrementing a matching counter; and setting an update indicator for the compared index entry.

14. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of claim 10, wherein the operations further comprise:

if all of the index entries in the array have been selected for comparison, incrementing a matching counter; and

storing the index in the current index entry in ~~an~~ the at least one output file, the at least one output file being associated with a value of a matching counter associated with the index.

15. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of claim 14, wherein the operations further comprise:

if all of the indexes in the character set files have not been selected for comparison, updating the current index entry; and

updating any index entry ~~whose~~ having an update indicator is set.

16. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 15, wherein the operations further comprise:

if all of the indexes in the character set files have been selected, outputting a number of output files that is equivalent to the number of character set files, wherein each output file stores zero or more indexes.

17. (Currently Amended) A system for matching character sets, comprising:
means for storing one or more data set files;
means for creating one or more character set files, wherein each character set file is associated with a character set and includes indexes associated with the one or more data set files;

means for creating a set of index entries, wherein each index entry in the array corresponds to a character set file and stores an index that is also stored in the corresponding character set file;

means for comparing the indexes stored in the index entries included in the set of index entries to determine whether any of the index entries match another index entry in the set of index entries;

means for updating at least one output file based on the comparing, the at least one output file being configured to store zero or more indexes based on a number of matches between the compared index entries;

means for receiving a request specifying one or more character sets; and

means for identifying one or more of the data set files that contain one or more of the requested character sets using the indexes in the character set files.

18. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 17, ~~further comprising:~~ wherein the means for creating a set of index entries includes means for creating an array of index entries, wherein each index entry in the array corresponds to a character set file and stores an index stored in the corresponding character set file, ~~[[;]]~~ and

wherein the means for comparing the index entries includes means for comparing a current index entry to a compared index entry.

19. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 18, further comprising:

means for, if the current index entry includes an index having a value that is less than an index included in the compared index entry, selecting another index entry for comparison.

20. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 18, further comprising:

means for, if the current index entry includes an index having a value that is greater than an index included in the compared index entry,

- (i) replacing the current index entry with the compared index entry; and
- (ii) resetting zero or more update indicators.

21. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 18, further comprising:

means for, if the current index entry includes an index having a value that is equal to an index included in the compared index entry,

- (i) incrementing a matching counter; and
- (ii) setting an update indicator for the compared index entry.

22. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 18, further comprising:

means for, if all of the index entries in the array have been selected for comparison,

- (i) incrementing a matching counter; and
- (ii) storing the index in the current index entry in ~~an~~ the at least one output file, the at least one output file being associated with a value of a matching counter associated with the index.

23. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 22, further comprising:

means for, if all of the indexes in the character set files have not been selected for comparison,

(i) updating the current index entry; and

(ii) updating any index entry whose having an update indicator is set.

24. (Original) The system of claim 23, further comprising:

means for, if all of the indexes in the character set files have been selected, outputting a number of output files that is equivalent to the number of character set files, wherein each output file stores zero or more indexes.